

November 2018 Wildfires: Frequently Asked Questions for Child Care Providers

1. Q: If a child care provider was impacted by the fires, are there government and other organization resources available to assist with recovery?

A: Yes, the Department of Social Services created a Guide to Disaster Assistance Services for Californians to assist those, including immigrant Californians, who were impacted by the fires. It is available in English and Spanish and can be found online at: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/Disaster-Help-Center>.

Also, the Child Care Licensing Website has a link to the Guide, as well as links to additional information that may be useful to providers, families and children.

This is available on our Website Homepage at:
<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Child-Care-Licensing>.

The official website for the Camp Fire response and recovery is also a useful website and can be found online at <https://buttecountyrecovery.org/>.

2. Q: Are there specific protocols and forms that licensed providers, impacted by fires, should use to request temporary waivers or to relocate/reopen?

A: Yes, impacted licensed facilities should call their [Local Regional Office](#) to report any unusual incidents and will want to submit an Unusual Incident Report to describe the impact of the disaster. Licensees may use the form [LIC 624](#) for Center facilities and the form [LIC 624B](#) for Family Child Care Homes. Relocating facilities must re-submit the application form [LIC 200A](#) for Child Care Centers and [LIC 279](#) for Homes, marking the "Location Change" checkbox provided at the top of the application form.

On November 14, 2018, California's Governor issued [Executive Order \(EO\) B-57-18](#) which authorizes the Department of Social Services to issue waivers for certain licensing requirements. If the EO is not extended, it expires in 60 calendar days of issuance. Requests for waivers will be addressed on a case by case basis, and Licensing Regional Offices will prioritize working with impacted licensed providers to streamline processes and approvals as necessary. Please contact your local Licensing Regional Office during regular business hours to receive assistance with your situation.

3. Q: Is there information regarding recovery available for smoke remediation deep cleaning, facility financial losses or other needs?

A: One of the resources identified is the Office of Emergency Services News Website, which has relevant information and resources regarding the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) disaster clean-up and temporary Local Assistance Centers located in several counties. Access the website here: <http://www.oesnews.com/>

In addition, the local Resource and Referral can assist in finding resources. You may locate the Resource and Referral program in your area here:
http://www.rnnetwork.org/find_child_care

4. Q: Are licensed Family Child Care Home providers able to provide temporary care in someone else's (friend/family) home if they have lost their facility due to the fire?

A: Yes, the impacted providers, who have had to relocate, should contact their [Local Regional Office](#) to have them review the specifics of their disaster situation to help identify temporary solutions or possible waivers that may be necessary. Some important items to note are:

- A relocating licensed Family Child Care Home must re-submit the application form [LIC 279](#) to their Licensing Regional Office, marking the "Location Change" checkbox provided at the top of the application form.
- All residents over 18 years of age, including children who reached age 18 while living in the home, must have criminal background clearances or exemptions.
- Be sure to include form [LIC 508](#) when requesting a "new" criminal background clearance. To request a transfer of an "existing" background clearance, please submit form [LIC 9182](#) along with form LIC 508. In order to request a transfer of an existing "exemption" for the criminal background check, please submit form [LIC 9188](#) along with form LIC 508. Note transfers of "exemptions" will take longer to process than transfers of "clearances."
- For a list of fingerprinting vendors in your area who can process the fingerprinting needed for background checks see: <https://oag.ca.gov/fingerprints/locations>

5. Q: Are fire impacted Family Child Care Home and Child Care Center licensed providers able to provide care beyond ratio temporarily during disaster recovery?

A: Yes, if the provider obtains a waiver from the Department of Social Services. Fire impacted providers should contact their [Licensing Regional Office](#) to review their specific disaster situation to help the Office identify possible temporary solutions. Requests for waivers will be addressed on a case by case basis, depending upon the circumstances. Licensing Regional Offices will provide guidance and will make the processing of requests for waivers a priority so that providers may resume operation as soon as possible. All temporary disaster waivers granted will be posted on the Department's Website.

6. Q: Can a licensed Family Child Care Home provider who lost their facility due to the fires merge with another licensed Family Child Care Home to provide care?

A: Yes, if the provider obtains a waiver from the Department of Social Services. Fire impacted providers should contact their [Licensing Regional Office](#) to review their specific disaster situation to help the Office identify possible temporary solutions. Requests for waivers will be addressed on a case by case basis, depending upon the circumstances. Licensing Regional Offices will provide guidance and will make the processing of waiver requests a priority so that providers may resume operation as soon as possible. All disaster waivers granted under the Governor's EO will be posted on the Department's Website.

7. Q: Is it possible to get a fire clearance in areas impacted by the fires, given the priorities for the fire departments?

A: Yes, while the Child Care Licensing Program is not the legal authority for the clearance, licensing has checked with many fire clearance authorities in the most impacted areas of the state and each reported they do not anticipate delays in processing fire clearances.

8. Q: What documentation must be provided to the Child Care Licensing Regional Office by a Family Child Care Home who has lost their home and is not planning on providing care at this time?

A: Disaster impacted providers are advised to contact their [Licensing Regional Office](#). A provider may close the facility by surrendering the license to the Regional Office OR has the option to request "Inactive Status" using form [LIC 9211](#), which allows for a temporary closure without surrendering the license and closing the facility.

9. Q: Is there a temporary license for child care facilities in disaster areas where care is needed?

A: No, a temporary license is not available for this type of situation, however disaster impacted providers are advised to contact their [Licensing Regional Office](#) to review possible options that may include:

- Relocating your facility which requires re-submitting the application form [LIC 200A](#) for Centers and [LIC 279](#) for Homes and marking the "Location Change" checkbox provided at the top of the form
- Requesting "Inactive Status" using form [LIC 9211](#), which allows for a temporary closure
- Providing care that is exempt from licensure may be an option. For an overview of license-exempt care see our Child Care Video "[Understanding Licensed Care and License-Exempt Care](#)"

10. Q: My licensed home facility would like to temporarily house fire dislocated friends/relatives. Are background checks still required and where can I process them?

A: Yes, all residents over 18 years of age, including children who reached age 18 while living in the home, must have criminal background clearances or exemptions. This is a critical component of the program that cannot be waived and must be completed prior to providing care. The following provides a list of vendors in your area who can process fingerprinting and background checks: <https://oag.ca.gov/fingerprints/locations>

- Former or current employees of Child Care Centers and residents of Family Child Care Homes, with existing criminal background clearances, may transfer them to a new or existing facility without delay by providing form [LIC 9182](#) and form [LIC 508](#), as directed to your local [Licensing Regional Office](#).
- Former or current employees of Child Care Centers and residents of Family Child Care Homes with existing criminal background exemptions may also transfer them to a licensed facility by providing form [LIC 9188](#) and form LIC 508, as directed to your Licensing Regional Office. Note transfers of "exemptions" will take longer to process than transfers of "clearances."